T-Mobile Launches LTE-Advanced VoLTE in Seattle

Ben Munson

T-Mobile today launched Voice-over-LTE (VoLTE) service in Seattle, deployed using an LTE-Advanced function called Enhanced Single Radio Voice Call Continuity (eSRVCC).

In a blog post [1], T-Mobile CTO Neville Ray said eSRVCC will help VoLTE calls from being dropped if subscribers move off LTE and onto HSPA+ or 2G coverage.

T-Mobile subscribers in Seattle using an LG G Flex, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 and Galaxy Light will be able to use the service right away via an over-the-air update.

Ray said T-Mobile will continue rolling out VoLTE, and offering more compatible devices, throughout the year and was careful to point out that T-Mobile has been offering HD Voice since 2013. He worked in a jab at the carrier's competitors, saying they couldn't get out HD Voice without VoLTE.

T-Mobile's announcement comes as VoLTE talk has flared up all over the industry.

AT&T just last week announced its VoLTE launch [2]—covering select markets in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin. AT&T's only compatible device, the Samsung Galaxy S4 mini, goes on sale May 23.

Not to be outdone, Verizon Tuesday provided an update on its VoLTE plans [3], promising the service will rollout out nationwide this year and run on a "robust" lineup of devices.

Sprint, meanwhile, has been launching HD Voice in select markets and is rumored [4] to be sending it out nationwide in July. Sprint has yet to announce its plans for a VoLTE launch.

MetroPCS in 2012 was the first U.S. carrier to offer VoLTE.

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